

FEE PROPOSALS

Irrigated Lands Conditional Agricultural Waiver Program

February 14, 2005

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center

A. Flat Fee Per Grower:

Each grower/farming operation would pay the same amount. This proposal is a simple approach, however inequitable to smaller growers.

B. Fee Based on Threat to Water Quality:

Possibly a more equitable approach than the flat fee, but difficult to quantify given the large number of risk factors such as site characteristics, crop type, and management practices. Management practices can include pesticide use (volume, category and timing of applications), irrigation methods, and more.

C. Acreage-Based Fee:

This method of calculation might be more equitable than a flat fee, and ease the burden on growers, and coalitions to analyze and verify individual levels of threat to water quality.

- Individuals:
\$100 processing fee per grower, plus 30 cents per acre
- Coalition Groups (if fees are submitted through the coalition):
\$100 processing fee per coalition, plus 15 cents per acre
- A third subset of the acreage-based fee is being considered for growers belonging to a coalition, but fees go directly to the State Water Board.

D. Fee-Based on Staff and Tasks Designated Per Coalition:

Some have suggested a shift from acreage based-fees to a fee based on tasks and staff designated to specific coalitions.

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